TO THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMON-WEALTH OF ENGLAND.

Fifty nine Particulars laid down for the Regulating things, and the taking away of Oppressing Laws, and Oppressors, and to ease the Oppressed.

By G. F.

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PARLIAMENT

FRIENDS,

Who are the Parliament of this Common-Wealth, who are to regulate things for the taking away of oppreſsing Lawes, and oppreſſors, and to ſtop the oppreſſors.

1 LET no man be priſoned for Tithes, which have been ſet up by the Apoſtates (the Papiſts) ſince the dayes of the Apoſtles.

2 Let no mans goods be ſpoiled, and made Havock on Treble, by the Prieſts and their company, though the Prieſt doth them no work whoſe goods he ſpoils.

3 Let no men or women be ſummoned up two hundred miles or upward to the Court at *London*, becauſe they cannot give the Prieſt Tithes, who doth no work for them, and when they appeared they will priſon them, becauſe they did not appear by an Attorney, and ſwear to their anſwers.

4 Let no man be priſoned for not appearing by an Attorney, who hath appeared in his own perſon, who is not ſick nor beyond Sea.

5 Let nothing be put in Bills that are more then the thing is, and let nothing be put in Writs more then the thing is, and let nothing be put in Indictments more then the thing is.

6 Let no man ſpeak in an unknown tongue.

7 Let no man be priſoned for not doffing his hat, let no man unable, un-man and weaken himſelf about that.

8 Let no man be priſoned becauſe he ſwears not at all, not by Heaven nor by earth, nor by book nor any other oath, but abides in the Doctrine of Chriſt, and keeps to yea and nay, and keeps his commands who witneſſes the end of all ſtrife.

9 Let no man be fined, and his goods ſpoiled, becauſe for conſcience ſake towards Chriſt and his commands hee cannot ſwear, let no man be put out of place or office, or ſervice becauſe he cannot ſwear, becauſe he doth what he doth faithful to God, at yea and nay to ſerve in his place where he is.

10 Let no man be put out of place for ſaying *thee* to a particular, and *you* to many who acts in the ſingular and plural, let no one be put out of place or office for not doffing their hats, who take not, nor give not the honour below, but to the higher Power their ſoul is ſubject, who receives the honour that comes down from above; ſo let no one be perſecuted for wearing their hats, for ſaying THOU, for not ſwearing, who for conſcience ſake towards God cannot ſwear.

11 Let none have their goods ſtrained and ſpoiled, and made havock on, and caſt into priſon for not paying Clerks wages for turning the hour-glaſſe, and ſaying Amen, and ſuch like ſervices.

12 Let no one be put to death for cattel, for money or any outward thing, let them reſtore, and minde the Law of God which is equity and meaſurable, agreeable to the offence, and minde the Judges of Old, and *Moſes*, and their judgement, (let the thief live to reſtore for his theft) and minde the Apoſtles doctrine, let him that ſtole, ſteal no more, but work with his hands the thing that is good; So that neither *Moſes* nor the Apoſtles ſaith, *hang him.*

13 Let no one have their goods ſpoiled and made havock on becauſe they cannot pay to mend the old Steeple-houſes which were the old Maſſe-houſes, who have left their places, and their ſeats both, and the man that is in it; and for them that be in it, they are uncharitable, though they have left their ſeats, and left them their houſe, to take their goods, and make them to maintain it that be come out of it

14 Let all laws in *England* be brought into a known tongue, that every Countryman may plead his own cauſe, without Attorney or Counſellour, or for mony, but men that fears God, and hates covetouſneſſe, decide and end

things

things among People in all places, but let none do it for money and reward, let it never be had in esteem among you, and away with cap-men, and coyf-men, (as they are called) and thirty shillings, and twenty shillings, and ten groat fees, and this oppression, that makes people pay eight pence a sheet, for not above sixteen lines; So away with all these Councellors, that will not tell men the Law, a few words, without twenty, or ten, or thirty shillings, which is a great oppression.

15 Let all these things be taken away, that will not speak a few words to people, without money to his neighbour, freely without any end, or reward, or bribery, and so bring it to a free Nation, and so a free People by the pow- of God, and this will be the way to take off oppression off the poor people, when in every place such as fear God, and hate covetousnesse, decides things among the people, and if they be great things, let them send them up to you the Parliament; and away with those lawyers, twenty shilling Councellors, thirty shilling Sergeants, ten groat Attournies, that will throw men into Prison for a thing of nought, for not swearing, for not appearing by an Attorney, for not doffing their hats; so if this trade were thrown away, and making Merchandize of Law, and great soms of money for councelling, and great rewards and fees, and the Priests making a trade of the Scriptures, people would soon come to be plain, and Countrey people would soon decide their businesse, being left to all to do it freely, this would be the way to take off oppression, and if any would speak concerning law or Scripture to do it freely, this is the way to bring the Nation like a Garden, and a free Nation, a free people.

16 Let none that is high, proud, or softy, envious or scornful bear Office, for he will turn the sword backward, and do the Divels work, which is to bring the World into a Wilderneſse, and quench the spirit of God, whereby every one should see his way, and he will not be like *Moses*, who said, *would all the Lords People were Prophets*; *Moses* said so that comprehended all transgression, the first transgression,

and what was transgressed, which sprung forth, for they that are hasty, and heady, proud in a mad blind zeal will turn the sword against the just, and are not a praise to them that do well, such are not a terrour to evil doers, but lets them upon the righteous, and such God will overturn, and overturn, as often as they get up; *Cain* that Governour who built a City, he was called a vagabond, who killed faithfull *Abel*, and he that did so, had not an habitation in God.

17 And let all fines and amercements be given to the poor, and let no one be prisoned, and fined, and their goods spoiled for not going to Steeple-houses, as many have been; and let no one be imprisoned for going to Steeple-houses, as many have been for speaking a few words to the people, biding them fear God, and repent, and crying up Christ among them, and speaking as they were moved, as it was revealed to them, according to the Apostles doctrine and order, as 2 *Cor.* 14. 30. which was the practice and order in the Church of God, that if any thing was revealed to another, the first was to hold his peace, but this order is broken amongst the Christians, and they are prisoned till death that practice it, or whipt, or stocked, or imprisoned.

18 Let no law be, but that man may ask man a question, either going to or coming from Steeple-house, or there, if it be a free Nation, let it be free, let none have the name of a Minister, but such as are able to satisfie all doubts, and all questions, and for to convince, and stop the mouths of all gainsayers, and opposers, and not let them be such as call to the Magistrates to send to prison for asking a question, like the *Jewes* that cryed out, help men of *Israel*, for these are the men that turn the World up-side down.

19 Let all names of people be thrown down, nick-names that be given for their opinions by men, that all may be gathered into the Name of Christ.

20 Now if you say, that we call your Ministers Priests, we do so, from your law, your great law book calls them so, and then their practise shewes it.

21 And

21 And let no man be whipped, or ſtocked, or impriſoned, as many have been, for bidding people repent in a market, and to lay aſide their deceitful Merchandize, and their couzening and cheating, and ſwearing, and curſing, and to keep to yea and nay in all their communications.

22 Let no man be priſoned, and their money taken away, for going to viſit priſoners, and to relieve them in what they wanted.

23 Let none have their horſes and goods ſpoiled and taken away, for meeting together in the fear of God, the firſt day of the week, traveling to meetings.

24 Let no one that meet together in the fear of God, in ſeveral houſes, waiting upon the Lord, praying, or exhorting, & edifying one another in the moſt holy faith, let them not have their houſes broken, their windows broken, and they pulled out of their houſes, and knockt down and beat, and houſes unthatched, and many pulled down, and men plucked out, and knocked down, as many have been.

25 Let none be perſecuted and priſoned as vagabonds who are moved of the Lord to ſpeak abroad his Word freely and faithfully, let them not be perſecuted as vagabonds, for thoſe are the vagabonds that be envious and wrathful, that turns againſt the faithful ones, and though they be Lords of Cities, like their old brother *Cain*, yet they are in *Cains* way that turns againſt the juſt, and God hath no reſpect to their ſacrifice, though they may build cities, yet vagabonds, if they be envious, that hath not a habitation in God; But *Abel*, *Abraham* and Chriſt was not, which were as ſtrangers, and had no certain dwelling houſe, and Chriſt had no where to lay his head.

26 And let none be Goalers that are drunkards, or ſwearers, or oppreſſors of people, but ſuch as may be good paterns to the priſoners, and let none lie long in Goal, for that is the way to ſpoil people, and to make more thieves, for there they learn wickedneſſe together; and let no peeviſh man bear any office, or ambitious, for he will be exalted with the rich, and a ſhame to the poor, and not h ar

his cauſe. The cap is on as the rich go with the rich, but the cap off with the poor, and there is the offence, if it be not to the rich; ſo let not that be minded, but let every one do juſtly to his neighbour without reſpect.

27 Let no ſwearer, nor curſer, nor drunkard bear any office whatſoever, or be put in any place, nor drunkard nor adulterer, nor covetous Idolater.

28 Let all this money, and ſtipends, and Tithes, and hour glaſſes for preaching by the hour be taken away from men, who make a trade of the Scripture, but let every one ſpeak freely as they have received, but let them go out to get vine-yards, and plant vineyards, and threſh, and plow in hope, and then there will be little cauſe to call to the Magiſtrates to give them maintenance, but they will then all have enough, then every one of them will gather into the barn, of the wheat and crop of God.

29 Let all thoſe Abie-lands, Gleab-lands, that is given to the Prieſts, be given to the poor of the Nation, and let all the great houſes, Abbies, Steeple-houſes, and White-Hall be for Alms-houſes (or ſome other uſe then what they are) for all the blind and lame to be there, and not to go begging up and down the ſtreets.

30 And let all that worſhip God, worſhip him in ſpirit & in truth, & not tyed up to will-worſhips, let all thoſe Schools & Colledges down, who makes Miniſters by the will of man, but that all may come to wait upon God and Chriſt Jeſus, whereby they are made Miniſters by his will, that redeems people out of the earth, but thoſe keep people in the earth, and let not the mouth be ſtopped, which the Lord opens.

31 Let all thoſe croſſes upon ſeals be pulled off, and off the ſilver, and gold, and weights, and of Steeple-houſes, and chimnies, and Ships, and ſigns, and Mayſes, and arms, and ſcucheons, and flags, and Enſignes, and ſtandards which is the Popes Croſſe, let it be rooted out of the Nation, and the Pope and his authority.

32 Let all thoſe Fines that belong to Lords of Mannors, be given to the poor people, for Lords have enough.

Now the people of the World that comes into our meetings, ſpit upon us, throw ſtones at us, ſet and throw dogs at us, ſpeak all manner of evil upon us, and all manner of ſlander, Them that be great Profeſſors and great talkers practice this, and pluckers down, yet if our friend go into the Steeple-houſe, and aske but a queſtion, they will hale him out, and caſt him into priſon, or if he ſpeak never a word, they will caſt him into priſon, and if he do not go, they will caſt into priſon for asking a queſtion.

33 Let all the poor people, blinde and lame, and creeples be provided for in the Nation, that there might not be a begger in *England* nor *Englands* Dominions, that you may ſay you come to be equal with the Jewes, that had the law, that made proviſion for widows, ſtrangers and fatherleſſe, and *Levi*; hee that turns his ears from hearing the poor, turns his ears from the Law, which is to provide for them, for ye have read the practice of the Church, the Saints which were in the Goſpel, which doth condemn this Nations practice, where is ſo many Beggars among them, both the Jews in the Law, and the Church in the Goſpel? And ſo let all great gifts given to great men, be given to the poor, let the receiver deny it, and the giver return it to the poor; for the rich may give to the rich, but the poor cannot give it him again, ſo minde Chriſts Doctrine.

34 Let all thoſe Eaſter-reckonings, Midſommer-dues, be taken & thrown aſide, and let no ones goods be ſpoiled, who for conſcience ſake cannot give the Prieſt theſe things, and let all this Burying the dead for mony, and Marrying for mony, and Chriſtening for mony, and Churching of women for mony, let all theſe things be ſwept away, and let the Nation be a free Nation, and what any one doth, let them do it freely; Theſe twenty ſhilling Sermons, and ten ſhilling Sermons, and ten groats the grave for the Prieſt be laid aſide, and then ſee whoſe mouth the Lord will open; for mony choaks, and gifts blindes.

35 And let no man bear the ſword that does violence to any man, or accuſe any man falſely.

36 Let all theſe naming of dayes, thoſe Sunsdayes, and

Moonsdayes, Tuisdayes, Wodensdayes, Thorsdayes, Frydayes, Saturdayes, that is after the Heathens manner (and naming) be put out of your Almanacks, which is contrary to the Jewes naming of dayes, and the true Christians both.

37 Let all this observing of holidayes, and Saints days, (which hath been set up by them who were out of the power of God, as Michalmas, and Candlemas, and Christmas, Whitsontide, Easter, and many of the Saints days which they were killed on, those they feast on, sottish people feast on, fools and Ideots feast on; let this abomination be taken away.

38 Let no man that is a striker or fighter, and a wrestler with flesh and blood, and wrestles with the Creatures of God, that goes under the name of a Minister of Christ, not to go under the name of Minister, that would have Creaturs to be whipt, stockt and prisoned, for they that fight with powers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness, they must lay aside the outward sword and the spear, the whips, the stockings, and the prisonings, and they must come to the spiritual weapons, the spirit of God in themselves, the spiritual weapon that wars with the powers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness, to bring the Creature into the liberty of the Sons of God, for they that fight with Creatures fight with outward weapons.

39 Let no Judge, nor Justice, nor Sheriff that is ambitious, High-minded, bear rule, or bear any Government, for such are out of the fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom, with which they should order the Creation to the Glory of God the Creator, and are out of the meek state and the humility, and of doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly before God, and they are an ill savour in the nostrils of God, and to all sober, tender people and sincere.

40 And let the noise of this summing people up by writs, into the courts of the Nation and Sessions for Priests, poor people, them the Priest does no work for, let that be taken away and stopt, and all those Courts pulled down,

that

that doth oppreſs and hold up oppreſſion, that Juſtice might be done without oppreſſion, and not for money, for theſe things hath ſhamed the ſo called Miniſters of the Goſpel, which ſues people up and down, which they do no work for, and ſo do not bring glad tidings to the Nations, but trouble, as their fruits have declared; What trouble are men brought into by their Courts and Seſſions whom they do no work for? had the Apoſtle done ſo, he might have made the Goſpel loathſom, troubleſom, but he kept it without charge; but ſuch there hath been but few ſince the dayes of the Apoſtles, ſo let the Goſpel be kept without charge, and let them that Miniſter the Goſpel, keep it without charge.

41 And away with all theſe ſtipend-men and glebe-land men, augmentation men, gifts, fees and rewards, &c.

42 Let no man, Prieſt nor Lawyer have Tithes, augmentations, ſtipends, glebe-lands, great fees, gifts and rewards, but if any one will preach or read the Law, let him do it freely, for God is a free God, and ſo are his people, and Chriſt is a free Chriſt, and offered himſelf freely; what any one hath received freely from him, he is to give it freely, (this is Chriſts Command to be obeyed) and ſo this will be the way to ſet the Spirit of God free, and the Oxes mouth ſhall not be muzeled that treads out the Corn, and this will be the way to ſtop all ſuch that makes a trade of the Law, and Scriptures, that if any one will read Law or Scriptures, let him do it freely, and not by this carnal meaſure, the hour-glaſs, by which the Spirit of God is quenched in others, which reveals ſomething to them for edification and comforting, according to the Order and Practiſe of the Church of God, 1 *Corinthians* 14. 30.

43 And you that are Officers, that have great eſtates of your own, and Commanders, and men of Authority, do that which you do freely, and that will be the way for to gain the love of God and your Countrey, and the way to take off this oppreſſion, and it will be the way that the poor might have the more plenty, and it will be the way

whereby Juſtice, the Goſpel may run freely without money and without price.

44 Let all theſe things for money, and preaching for money, and ſinging for money be laid aſide, let not preaching be a trade, nor the Word of God made Merchandize of; and let not the Law be ſold nor bought, and let not them handle the Law, nor none of them be handlers of the Law that will not do Juſtice without money; for thoſe will not do Juſtice, but will favour the rich for a fee, a gift or reward, which eates up the poor, and hold people in long ſuites, by which cauſe the Juſt ſuffers, and is often overthrown.

45 Let all Images and Pictures be taken away and plucked up, and blotted out of all Signes, Steeple-houſes and Gardens, and Houſes, and rooted out of the Land.

46 And let none keep Ale-houſes or Taverns, but who fear God, that is come into the Wiſdom of God, that will not let the Creatures of God be deſtroyed by Drunkards.

47 Let all Games, Sports be taken away that pleaſes the fleſhly mind.

Is it not to honour a Magiſtrate to live in the Power of God?

48 Let all the Stage-playes, May-Games, Shoffel-boards, Dice, Cards, Nine-holes, Foot-balls and Hand-balls, and Fidlings, and all theſe vain Muſicks, which ſtirs up the light vain minds of people, that doth not know what to eat nor drink, nor what to put on; let all theſe things be taken away that ſtirs up the light mind, and maketh proviſion for the fleſh, or elſe they will lye upon you.

49 Let all thoſe Bul-baitings, Cock-fightings, Horſe-racing, which is deſtructive to the Creatures, and to pleaſe peoples vain light minds, and is deſtructive to ſerioufneſs; let all theſe things be taken away.

50 Let no one wear Sword, Dagger or Piſtol, or weapon, but who is in Office, or Service, or Place, and this will bee the way to ſtop wickedneſs, and murderers and killers.

51 Let no man keep Ale-houſes or Taverns that keeps Bowls,

Bowls, Shoffelboard-Tables, or Fidlers, or Dice, or Cards.

52 Let neither Beggar nor Blind people, nor Fatherleſs, nor Widows, nor Cripples go a Begging up and down the ſtreets, but that a Houſe may be provided for them all, and meat, that there may be never a Beggar among you; and let this great Fees of Goalers and Garniſh-money be taken away, which through thoſe great Fees many have layn long in Priſon.

53 Let all Goals be in wholeſom places, that the Priſoners may not lye in their own dung, and Piſs, and ſtraw like Chaffe, having never a Houſe-of-office in the Priſon; Therefore let there be an Houſe-of-office in all Goals, and let theſe things be mended.

54 And let all theſe jangling of Bells ceaſe, which do feed peoples pleaſures and vain minds.

55 Let all thoſe Ballad-ſingers, and Ballad-makers, and Jeſt-book-makers which ſtirs up peoples vain and light minds, be taken away.

56 And let all this wearing of gold Lace, and coſtly attire, more like Anticks then ſober men, let this be ended, and cloath the naked, and feed the hungry with the ſuperfluity; And turn not your ear from the cry of the poor, for if you do, you turn it away from the Law that provides for them.

57 Let all the Prieſts reſtore to the poor people, who have ſo expreſſively taken away their goods, treble and treble; if you be the men that will do Juſtice, make them to reſtore to them their goods again; and that is but Juſt.

58 And let not the Prieſts ſtrike (our) Friends, nor ſet on their Profeſſors and hearers; but keep the Peace.

59 Let none have their goods taken away for not paying for the Prieſts bread and wine, t heir Communion (as they call it) though they do not eat with them, nor hath not for theſe many years; yet the Church-wardens (ſo called) diſtrains the goods of our Friends, to make them pay for their bread and wine, their Communion (ſo called) which they eat and drink.

Juſtice and Righteouſneſs exalteth a Nation; But ſin is a ſhame both to Rulers and people.

Be not high-minded but fear, and be meek and low, for the fear of the Lord is the inſtruction of wiſdom, and before honour goeth humility, Prov. 15. 33.

HE that perſecutes another for his Faith, maketh ſhipwrack of his own in himſelf; he that perſecutes and kills another about ſacrifice is a Vagabond, and is *Cain*, and not *Abel*, though he build a City, and be the Chief Magiſtrate in a City, as *Cain* was, and he doth not well, ſo he hath not dominion over ſin.

He that perſecutes another about meats and drinks, and dayes, is in the wiſdom below, and out of Chriſt the ſubſtance by whom all things was made, who is the Wiſdom of God. He that is a Lord over another mans Faith, is a perſecutor, and knows not Chriſt the Lord, the Author of Faith, and God the giver of it; and he that would bear rule over another mans Faith is out of the Apoſtles Doctrine, 2 *Cor.* 1. 24. And he that would bear rule over another mans Faith, will perſecute, ſuch will not have him to bear rule over their Faith which Chriſt is the Author of, and ſo to make ſhipwrack of Faith, and Chriſt the Author of it, ſuch doth, as will be Lords, and this is but the form of godlineſs out of the power, who brings the World on heaps; and this hath been in whole Chriſtendom ſince the dayes of the Apoſtles.

Such as would have dominion over mens Faith was the Anti-chriſts doctrine, and falſe Chriſt, which would have been as Chriſt, who was the author of true the Faith, and theſe have been making Faith almoſt in every age, and have power over the falſe faith, and called defenders of the Faith, and ſo have wilderneſſed people, and brought them all into Sects and heaps, and this hath kept people from the power of God: And who comes to receive the

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end of their Faith, they receive the Salvation of their Souls. And they that will have the power over mens Faith, they muſt needs be the end of their faith, which is a dead one; Now they that have gotten power over mens Faith, which is but a dead one ſince the dayes of the Apoſtles, for they that be in the living Faith ſuffereth with Chriſt, the Author and end of it, before they will yield to others, that would have power over their Faith, which if they get power, they make ſhipwrack, if not, they perſecute the Creature, till death by impriſonment or baniſhment, whipping, ſtocking, perſecuting and ſtoning, mocking or reproaching, yea, for their own maintenance ſuch as they do not work for; ſo thoſe men; Miniſters or Teachers, that would have power over mens Faith, and call themſelves defenders of it, they muſt needs be the end of it, that have power over it; And now with their power they will perſecute and Priſon Creatures till death, about their faith.

Them that ſeek to have preheminence over mens Faith, which is the cauſe and ground of bringing all people on heaps and ſects in the whole Chriſtendom, for when they have loſt the head Chriſt, who is the Author of the Faith which is one in whom it ends, who hath the power over it; now Chriſt that hath power over Faith, is the Author of it, and the end of it, he comes to ſave mens lives, and deſtroyes the Devil and his workes, and death wherein he hath his Authority, and ſaves mens lives, and can reconcile them to God; And the Apoſtles that bid people believe in Chriſt, and look unto him who is the Author of their Faith, and that they ſhould have Faith in Chriſt Jeſus, they wreſtled not with fleſh and blood, but ſpiritual wickedneſs, and rulers of darkneſs, and brought the creature into the liberty of the Sons of God.

So men that have power over mens Faith, the dead faith, they deſtroy the Creatures and mars them, and that is the power of darkneſs, that leads them to perſecute and do the works of darkneſs, but Chriſt who hath power over the living Faith, who is the Author of it, the end of it, the finiſher of it, he deſtroyes the Devil the power of darkneſs,

neſs, that went out of truth, & leads men out of truth into the darkneſs, where they devour one another by that power of darkneſs, --- and Chriſt is the cauſe of the living Faith, who ſaves mens lives, and deſtroyes the Author of ſin, and death, and dead Faith, and the cauſe and the Author of this Faith, and men deſtroying one another; ſo the Devil is the power of death, that went out from truth, where he hath his dead faith, and makes the World like a Wilderneſs, where death and deſtruction talkes of the fame of God, Chriſt, the Prophets and Apoſtles, where the Devil will have power over their Faith, that murder and perſecute Creatures with all his falſe apoſtles and falſe magiſtrates, which the true Magiſtrates never did with carnal weapons, with ſword and ſpear, he fights with Creatures, with fleſh and blood, he cannot fight with ſpiritual wickedneſs, and the powers of darkneſs, with ſwords and ſpears, he that fights with them, fights with fleſh, and blood with the Creatures, he doth not preach the Goſpel to that which is captivated with the powers of darkneſs, he that runs againſt the Creatures with ſwords and ſpears, and defaces and marrs it, doth not go the way to bring it into the liberty of the Sons of God, for hee that wreſtles with ſpiritual wickedneſs and rulers of darkneſs, he muſt be turned from them in his own particular, and with that eye he ſees the Goſpel & receives the Goſpel, which is the power of God, and comes to receive the Covenant of Light, whereby the priſoners ſhewes themſelves forth out of the pit, wherein there hath been no water, and ſo comes to fight with ſpiritual weapons and rulers of darkneſs; for he that fights with the powers of darkneſs and rulers of darkneſs, he muſt have the ſhield of Faith, and ſpiritual weapons to beat them down, and to bring the Creature into the liberty of the Sons of God.

Now they that fight with their ſpiritual weapons, they come into the true zeal of Chriſt, and fight not with fleſh and blood, to wreſtle with Creatures, but fights with their ſpiritual weapons, and wreſtles againſt ſpiritual wickedneſs, and rulers in darkneſs.

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Now they that say, They are Ministers of Christ and Ministers of the Gospel, and Christians, and fight with carnal weapons, swords and spears, about your Church, Religion and Worship, and Faith and Gospel, those fight with Creatures, with flesh and blood in the mad blind zeal, and are presumptuous and usurped authority, but you cannot fight with outward spear and sword, with powers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness; Now they that fight with spiritual wickedness and Rulers of darkness, they can do no good with an outward sword and outward spear, they can do no good with those weapons, for that is *Goliah's*; but they that fight with that must be with spiritual weapons, and lay aside the carnal weapons, sword and spear.

He that will be Lord over a mans Faith is in darkness, and out of the power of God, and hath lost the head, Christ the Author of Faith, and is in the dead Faith, and doth not believe that he shall overcome sin, and the body of sin, while he is upon the earth.

He that will persecute men about the Worship of God, he is out of the truth, and out of the Spirit, a will-worshipper, and in famed humility; for they that Worship God in the Spirit and in the Truth, they are in the Truth that the Devil, and murtherer, and persecutor is out of.

They that will persecute about Religion, they are in the vain religion below, among whom the power is not over their tongues, who will destroy the Creatures, and persecute to death about their vain religion; but who is in the pure Religion which is from above, that keeps unspotted from the World, which is to visit the fatherless, feed the hungry, cloath the naked, these be the preservers of the Creation; but they that persecute about their vain religion, be full of the World, and pleading about their body of sin while they are upon the earth, which cloaths not the naked, feeds not the hungry, relieves not the widow and the sick that lyes up and down like to famish; And such be in the divelish envious persecuting nature, and yet they will profess the Scriptures from *Genesis* to the

Revelation, where they find not their example, that will perſecute people about the Goſpel; ſuch be out of the Apoſtles Doctrine, and Chriſts Doctrine, who wreſtled not with fleſh and blood, but with powers of darkneſs, and ſpiritual wickedneſſes, & Chriſt came to ſave mens lives, not to deſtroy them, and to bring the Creature into the liberty of the Sons of God, and they that perſecute people about the Goſpel, are out of the power of God, in the Devils power, which power of God comprehends the World, and all tranſgreſſion, and is glad tidings which ſets free, through which power, life and immortality comes to light, and doth not perſecute, and they that perſecute people, and burn people, and Priſon people about their zeal of Chriſt, the Prophets and Apoſtles words, they are mad and blind, and out of the life of Chriſt and the Apoſtles, and his zeal that ſaved mens lives, and brought the Creature into the liberty of the Sons of God, and wreſtled with the powers of darkneſs and ſpiritual wickedneſſes, and deſtroyed the Devil and his works, and death where he had his authority, and reconciled the Creature, and man to God; This was Chriſts zeal, and did not perſecute creatures, but the blind and mad zeal deſtroyes Creatures, and Priſons and perſecutes them to death, inſtead of reconciling them, that is the Devils power.

And they that perſecute people about Religion, perſecute Creatures, and fight with them with ſwords, ſpears, ſtaves and bills, *Judas* guard, Priſons, houſes of Correction, whipping, ſtocking, with outward weapons, they quench the Spirit of God in themſelves, and throws away ſpiritual weapons, and ſuch never begets to God, nor Miniſters to the Spirit, but ſowes to the fleſh, that of the fleſh corruption may be reaped (and ſo much of it is to be reaped in Chriſtendom) that is the fruit of the carnal weaponed men, which quenches the Spirit, and throwes away the ſpiritual weapons.

And who perſecute and Priſon them about their wiſdom and knowledge, opinion and judgement, they have in Chriſts,

Christs, the Apostles and Prophets Words, that will kill, prison, stock and whip with the wisdom which they have in Christs, the Prophets and Apostles Words, such are in the wisdom below that is earthly, sensual and devilish, and out of the Wisdom that is from above, that is not departed from evil, and is not come to it, which is pure and gentle, and peaceable, and easie to be intreated, which doth not destroy but preserve, and is not earthly, sensual nor devilish, for that is destroying.

They that persecute and kill people about their Church and Ministry, be in the Dragons and Beasts, & great Whores authority, and false church compelling, out of the Dominion and Authority of the Church of God (which Christ is the head of) and the Ministry saves mens lives; And that Church which Christ is the head of, who Worship God in Spirit and truth, the Church which is the Ground and Pillar of truth, that all persecutors are out of, for the Devil and all his guard is out of this Church.

They that say, they are believers which are not born of God, and do not believe in the Light which doth enlighten every man that cometh into the World, and are not born of God, by which they overcome the World; That belief is false, that say, they do believe, and yet while they be upon the earth, they must have a body of sin and corruption while they be upon this side of the grave, their Faith is dead, and so their Conscience is defiled; for the Mystery of Faith is held in a pure Conscience, which is a living lively Faith, that gives victory, through which Faith the fiery darts of Satan is quenched, through which Faith they have access to God that purifies the heart, which the Mystery of is held in a pure Conscience, by which the Just lives, by which they overcome the unjust, the author of death, and the dead faith.

They that say, they are Worshippers of God, and lives out of truth, they worship as the Devil doth out of truth; for who worships God in the truth, is in that which the Devil is out of, and Worships in that.

And they that say, they are Worshippers of God, and

must have sin and corruption, and the body of sin while they be upon the earth; they are the will-worshippers, and worships out of the Spirit, and quenches the Spirit of God in themselves, which mortifies sin, and puts off the body of sin and corruptions, through which Spirit they have Unity with God, and one with another, and Scripture, and them that gave it forth, which was in the Spirit of God.

They that say, they have a hope, and they must not be pure while upon the earth, which doth not purifie them as God is pure, but they must have sin and corruption, and the body of sin while this side of the grave; it is the hope of the Hypocrite which shall perish, though they do profess all Scripture, from *Genesis* to the *Revelation*, for the true hope, Christ the Mystery, which remains and doth not perish, perfects, and makes as pure as God is pure; and this differs from the false hope which doth not purifie, and is to perish.

And they that will persecute about hope, be in the Hypocrites hope (like Pharisees) professing Scriptures, and will turn against Christ the hope; and so they persecute him in his Saints. (Why persecutest thou me?) And so they who persecute people about Worship, be out of the truth; for who be in the truth, be in that the Devil is out of, the persecutor.

They that will persecute People about Faith, be in the dead faith, and is out of that Faith which works by love, and give victory, and quenches the fiery darts of the wicked, the Devil who is the author of persecution.

And they that will persecute enemies, and hate enemies, and will call them Blasphemers, seducers, they are haters of Creaters, and strikers of Creatures, and hath that power which captivates Creatures, and are not the Spiritual men in the armour of God, to fight with spiritual wickedness, of whom remains the curse that comes not up to fight against the Mighty; The Dragon, and all carnal weaponed men, with which he fights with all about worship; And they that have enemies, have thrown aside the commands of Christ, which is to love enemies, and be out of

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the love of Christ, and God that loved the World though it lay in Wickedneſſe, and ſent his onely begotten Son into the World, and gave him for an offering, and a ſacrifice for the ſins of the whole World, and doth enlighten every man that cometh into the World, that all through him might believe, and he that believes him and receives him, hath power to become the Son of God, and he that doth not believe, but hates the light with which he is enlightened, which comes from Christ, he an is Anti-christ, and will not come to the light, becauſe it doth reprove him, and this is his condemnation, who loves the darkneſſe, rather then the light, becauſe his deeds be evil; and thoſe that call themſelves Miniſters of Christ, and Preachers of the Goſpel, and will perſecute men for Tythes, Eaſter-reckonings, Midſummer dues, and for Clerks wages for ſaying Amen, and for not mending the old Maſs-houſe, they be out of the Apoſtles order and Christ; for no ſuch things were practiſed among the Miniſters nor Apoſtles of Christ, nor had they any ſuch practice, but ſtood in the power of God, with which they ſtopped the mouths of ſuch evil beaſts, and ſlow-bellies, which taught for filthy lucres ſake, which they gave the name of evil Beaſts, and ſlow-Bellies, whoſe words was as canker, who admired mens perſons becauſe of advantage, who are found in *Balaims* way, *Corahs* and *Cains* way, and perſecuting and turning againſt the juſt; who will perſecute people about the Scriptures, be out of the life of the Apoſtles and Christ who was the end of the Scriptures, and juſt mens ſpirits that gave them forth, in him they end whoſe name is called the word of God, who is come to fulfill the words of God; for the Miniſters of Chriſt never perſecuted any, neither did Chriſt give them any ſuch command, but taught to love enemies; and ſo theſe ſay they are Miniſters of Chriſt and the Goſpel, and teacheth Magiſtrates to perſecute, which are contrary to them, have thrown away the commands of Chriſt and his Doctrine, and are out of the Apoſtles life and Doctrine both, that be ſtrikers, that ſayes they muſt not be ſtrikers, and out of the mind and ſpirit of Chriſt, life and power, who comes to

ſave mens lives, and judged and rebuked their zeal, who would have mens lives deſtroyed, and told them they ſhould periſh, who would have mens lives deſtroyed except they repented.

And they that will perſecute people for wearing their hats, are in the honour below, out of the honour that commeth from God above; the hat-honour, worſhip & humility hath been ſet up in the fall, hath been ſince man tranſgreſſed, & was driven from God, and is the worſhip among them that is covered, but not with the ſpirit of God, in whom the witneſs is tranſgreſſed, and quenched; And they that will perſecute people about that they call civility, & fellowſhip, and language, and faſhions, be out of the fellowſhip of God, the ſpirit, and out of the ſhape of God, and out of the ſound ſpeech and language that cannot be condemned, and out of the ſingular and plural, though they have learned ſuch words amongſt themſelves, yet practiſeth them not themſelves, nor will have others; and the civility ſtands not in outward things, but in that which comprehends outward things, in which their is love, life, and faith that works by love, who envies not, So the civility in which there is envy, outward civility, but it ſtands in the love of the World, ſelf-love, honours, ſelf-righteouſneſſe, will-worſhip, fained humility, crouching, ſcraping, capping, fained love, in which is the envy that have it not. in which is that they call their civility, which is come up ſince the ſpirit hath been tranſgreſſed, in which love and wiſdom of God, there is courteouſneſſe, and kindneſſe, and tenderneſſe, and ſtooping and coming down to the Priſoned and oppreſſed, and among the captivated ones, here is tenderneſſe, and love, and compaſſion, and mercy, and the wiſdom that is from above, in this ſtands the civility that is plain and pure and good in the love of God, that envies no creature, that would have all creatures to worſhip God, and honour Him, this love thinks no evil, and this is not of the World, and they are the falſe Church, and falſe Apoſtles, and Miniſters of unrighteouſneſſe, and falſe teachers, and among whom is not the order of the true Church,

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nor exhorting, nor edifying; that is, if any thing be revealed to another that sits by, the first is to hold his peace, ye may all prophecy one by one, that all may learn, and all be comforted, which was the order of the true Church, and true Ministry; but the false Church and Ministry gets to the powers of the earth, to make them a law, if any one speak to them to bid them hold their peace that sits by, there is something revealed unto them to comfort and edifie the people, the false Church and the false Ministers tells the Magistrates, Revelation is ceased, of whom they have a Law to cast them into prison or house of correction, or getting mony when they are going to the Steeple-house, or in it, or coming from it, as disturbers; And this is the practice of the true Church, which was to edifie & to comfort, is become disturbers of the false Church and Ministery, that have gotten a law to hinder exhorting and comforting.

G. F.

THE END.

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